

School of Theology at Claremont



1001 1341338

BV  
4647  
R4  
M3  
1703a



The Library  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
AT CLAREMONT

WEST FOOTHILL AT COLLEGE AVENUE  
CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA









The High Attainment.

A Brief DISCOURSE

Concerning

Resignation

to the WILL of GOD;

A Glorious DUTY incumbent on  
every CHRISTIAN,

AND

Containing in it, the very Spirit,  
and Comfort, and Glory of

CHRISTIANITY.

*Omne quod est, aut amissos deputate,  
in quo, D. Amore, propriam non  
fregistis voluntatem.*

Taulerus.

BOSTON: Printed by B. Green,  
& J. Allen, for Nicholas Boone, at his  
Shop near the Old-Meeting-House.



Theology Library

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
AT CLAREMONT  
California



*Long Bill*  
*March 23. 1798*

[ 1 ]

---

THE  
High Attainment.

---

A& XXI. 14.

The Will of the Lord be done !

**I**T is a Passage in the Blessing upon the Tribe of Zebulon, Deut. 33. 19. *They shall call the People to the Mountain ; There they shall offer the Sacrifices of Righteousness.* An Intimation, that this Tribe would be happily Instrumental to perswade many of the Gentiles to repair unto the Temple and Worship of God, in His Holy Mountain. Christians, We are this Day come into the Mountain of God, at the Call that has been given us. But what have we

6127  
6127

## The High Attainment.

to do in this Mountain. Truly, We are called here, to Offer the Sacrifices Righteousness. But of the Sacrifices to be offered here, there is One of more Importance, of more Excellence, and of more Difficulty than all the rest. My Hearers, There is a Sacrifice, wherewith, Oh! that we could now Glorify God!

It is the Sacrifice of our own WILL unto His: A Sacrifice, of more Account with the Great GOD, than if we should bring to Him, Thousands of Rams, and Ten Thousands of Rivers. What I mean, is short. For a man to be willing, any thing that God will have him be.

I do not know a more useful Point of Christianity to be inculcated. It is no Easy Point; it is no common Point.

It is a Point of the highest Elevation in Religion: It ought to have frequent and fervent Inculcation. There is no Christian, there is no one of you My Hearers, but what has a Vast Occasion for it! We may together now Learning this Heavenly Lesson, [For,

alas, after long being in the School of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, I must with shame own my self, to be yet but a Learner

Learner

## The High Attainment.

Learner of it. Our Time will be as profitably Spent, in ever any Time in the many years that we have been together.

Behold, An Example of some, that made an admirable proficiency in Learning this Lesson of Heaven. There were some Eminent Christians, who had, (while he had such a Thorn in the Flesh, as to feel, that very many of the Christians who were his Countrymen had not) a mighty Kindness and Friendship for the Apostle Paul. The Spirit which beset that Man of God, was it alwayes very near unto their Hearts, and made them very Sorrowful. They saw very sad Things coming on themselves, in the approaching and impending Death of their incomparable Friend; and their Hearts were filled with sadness. Their Eyes were drowned in Tears, when they saw a brave Man, who was the Desire of many Eyes, had but a little while to Live.

Our Text relates their Behaviour under the prospect of such a Calamity. They behaved themselves wonderfully well, and Expressed a Profound Resignation.

121

## The High Attainment.

on to the will of God. What I am here-  
upon to observe. This;

### DOCTRINE.

**A Profound Renunciation to the  
Will of God, is a Glorious  
Disposition in a Saint of God.**

There are Two Enquiries, that now  
call for our Meditations.

1. *What is that Profound Renuncti-  
on to the Will of God, which is so  
pursued. Every Christian?*

'Tis, in general, such Flight of  
Grace, as for man to become *Willing*  
that the Will of God should be done in all  
things. For man to have his own  
Will Conformed and Submitting unto  
the Will of God, in all things, which he  
finds that Holy Will imposing on him.  
'Tis for a man to be Sweetly, quietly,  
cheerfully Satisfied in the Will of God  
concerning him, even when that Will  
does appear to require those things,  
which his own will would at first have

rejected

## The High Attainment.

rejected and avoided, with the greatest  
effort imaginable.

Indeed, there has been One *Salley* of  
Devotion sometimes pretended, which  
is by no means to be commended or  
approved. That is, For a man to be  
willing to *leave* State of Religion, sup-  
posing that God will cast him into a hor-  
rible State. No, Sirs, We may not with-  
out Horror Suppose that God has ma-  
de it our Duty, to Desire and Labour  
to be Saved. No man may be *Willing*  
to *leave* Religion. When *Moses* and  
*Paul* in a Transport of affection to their  
Perishing People, seem to suppose an  
Excision, and an *Anathema*, befalling  
them, We may not suppose, that they  
could consent unto their own Everlast-  
ing Damnation or, to Depart *curst*  
with *Devil* his Angels. Our good  
God will not have us to suppose, that  
our Consent unto a thing so formida-  
ble could be demanded of us. God  
has joined his Own Glory so closely  
with Our Salvation, that we may say,  
What God has thus joined, man may not se-  
parate. To Suppose, That it would be  
Glory of God, for us to be short of





## 6 The High Attainment.

Salvation; that God would have  
 Willing to have Him Glorified in our  
 Damnation; 'Tis an unallowable po-  
 sition. State Damnation fixes  
 miserable Soul, in a State Wickedness.  
 would be such a Thing -- be will-  
 ing to be such a Thing. The  
 Damned are Haters of God. No man  
 should be Willing to be one of those  
 The Damned are Haters of God.  
 No man should be Willing  
 to undergo Wretchedness. True  
 The GOD will have us be  
 to say, Lord, am worthy  
 to be Damned. But it is no part of the  
 Damnation Enjoyned upon us, to say,  
 I am willing to be Damned. Yea,  
 the Lord sometimes brings faith-  
 full Servants to This that they shall  
 say, Lord, thou wilt never look favour-  
 ably upon me, with the Blessings  
 to come yet will Fear thee, and Serve thee,  
 and Bless thee, much as ever I can,  
 long as I live in this World. And some-  
 times the Lord has brought and broke  
 Spirits His Faithful Servants un-  
 to this; that they have said, Lord, I  
 must perish after all, I shall and can  
 do no more.

## The High Attainment. 7

down into the place. Dragons, Ob!  
 not leave me to Blaspheme dear Name,  
 among those Howling Dragons. But after  
 our God Expects not, our Will, to  
 be brought unto this pitch of Resigna-  
 tion; To be willing to be Damned. Call  
 not that Religious Resignation, which  
 carry in it a Contradiction to all  
 Religion.

More positively and punctually;

I. We must The Will of the Lord  
 be done; and be willing to be what God  
 will us to be, in point of Sancti-  
 fication. There is a Preceptive Will of  
 God. We must Resign our Will to the  
 Will of God. Resigned in His Precept,  
 and be glad. Willing to do all that the  
 Lord our God requires of us. We read,  
 1 Thess. 5. 2. This is the will of God, your  
 Sanctification. We have the Will of God,  
 Exhibited unto us in the Command-  
 ments of His Word. We should make  
 no Exceptions against this Will of God,  
 but esteem all His Commandments,  
 as Right and Just and Good; and they should  
 be none of them Grievous unto us. I  
 thought



194

### 3 The High Attainment.

should be the choice and wish of our Will, Oh ! That my wayes were directed, for I keep the Statutes of God. I was the Prayer of a Worthy man for Friends, Col. 12. *Alwayes Labouring fervently in Prayers, that I may stand perfect and complete in all the Will of God.* How much ought this to be our Prayer for our selves ! Though there should be never such *Hard Sayings*, in the Laws which declare the Will of God unto us, yet we should like them all, as *Good Sayings*. Our Will must fall in with the Will

God, in whatever He shall prescribe unto us. We read concerning, *Aceptable will of God.* Whatever we see to be the Will of God, it should be Acceptable to Us, because it is to Him. It is a Petition in the Platform Prayer given to our Lord, *Let thy Will be done on Earth, as tis done in Heaven !* Truly, we should be Restless, till Our will do as fully harmonize with the Will of God, in His Word made known unto us, as the Will of the Angels in Heaven. But, O Ye Angels, we know, You have the Commandments of God, hearkening to the Voice of His word ; You are His Ministers,

### The High Attainment.

in Pleasure. They do the Will of God, without any the least Reluctancy !

II. We must say, *The Will of God* done ! and be Willing to be, what God will have us to be, in point of **Affliction.** There is the *Providential will* of God. We must *Resign* our Will, to the Will of God, fulfilled in His Providence ; and be freely Willing, that God should, as He please, dispose of us and ours. Abundance of *Uneasy Things* will continually befall us, until we arrive to the *Rest which remains for the People of God.* Now, in *Resignation* to the will of God, we should, under all these *Uneasy Things*, even here procure some *Rest* unto our minds. From an Apprehension of the will of God in us, we should under *All Adversity* be composed, unto an Even, and Serene and Joyful Temper, and be Willing that we should send yet more *Adversity* upon us, if it be His Blessed will to do so. Here, Here is *Resignation*, that carries most of *Trial* and *Trouble* ; when God sends any *Trial* in *Trouble* upon us, we should be easy in our minds from



## 10 The High Attainment.

Consideration, *Because God will have*  
Such was the Resignation of the  
Sufferer; Psal. 39. 9. Lord, I was Dumb,  
Opened not my Mouth, because THOU  
DIDST IT!

Now, tis after this manner, that we  
should proceed unto it.

First, We must without Lively Faith,  
Realize the *Will* of God, so as to see and  
feel, and own, that without this *Will*,  
there comes nothing to pass in the  
World. This *Faith* is no *Fancy*. There  
comes nothing to pass in the World,  
without the *will* of God, who made the  
World. He that made the World, most  
uncontroaleably and universally Rules  
the World; and His Rule Extends to all  
Circumstances of all Occurrences in the  
World. The *Will* of God, the Decree  
of God, the *Purpose* of God, lies at the  
Bottom, of every thing that ever com-  
es to pass. We are told, Eph. 1. 11. *He*  
*works all things after the Counsel of His own*  
*will*. Every Thing has a Cause; we  
must come to a First Cause; The *will*  
of God is that First Cause. Yea, The *will* of  
God

## The High Attainment. 11

God is not only the Cause why things  
Are, but also the Cause why things Are  
not: I said, Lam. 3. 37. *There is he that*  
*says, and cometh to pass, when the Lord*  
*Commandeth, not?* Every thing be-  
witheld from us, in the *will* of God that  
witheld it; well the *will* of God that  
Bestows it, at any thing be *Resolv'd* in  
us. The Summ of the matter, is This  
The whole world, is under the Govern-  
ment of the Infinite GOD. God having  
propos'd unto Himself the best of Ends  
in His own GLORY, does govern the  
whole World, with Respect unto it.  
The *will* of God has appointed whatever  
comes to pass in the World, for to be  
Subservient unto the best Ends. No-  
thing comes to pass, but by  
virtue of the appointment from the *will*  
of God. Yea, Mat. 23. 29. Not a Spar-  
row falls to the ground without Him. In this  
*Faith*, our Souls must be established: we  
must abandon this *Faith*, we are abandon'd  
unto Folly, and Atheism, and Ever-  
lasting Discontent.

Secondly, We must, with a Lively  
*Faith*, Acknowledge the *will* of God, as

192

12 **The High Attainment.**  
 always infinitely *Wise* and *Just* and  
*Good*. The pleasure *God*, is  
 ways *Good pleasure*; A *Faith*  
*Operation*. *God* will count it so.  
 Though the *Will* of *God* should be  
 never contrary to *ours*, yet our con-  
 clusion should be that; *Uā*.  
*Good is the Word of the Lord*. It is  
 impossible, that the *Will* of *God*  
 should ever do any *Wrong*; for the  
 Original measures of *Right* are in that  
*Will*. We can't properly say, *That*  
*God wills a Thing because it is Right*;  
 as we can say, *Thing Right, be-*  
*cause God wills*. When we see plain-  
 ly, *That God will have any thing to*  
*be*, and *we must conclude,*  
*best that it should*. This must  
 be *Reason* enough unto us; *is the*  
*will*. This is indeed the *Sup-*  
*reme Reason*, the greatest *Reason*, the  
*Reason* of all *Reasons*. The Holy  
*God gives none Account His matters*;  
*His Will* unaccountable. There  
 needs no better Account for any  
 thing,

13 **The High Attainment.**  
 thing, than, *That it is His will* - have  
 1136 None may say to Him, *What*  
*doest thou?* or, *Why wilt thou do it?*  
 As our Lord said, Joh. 13. *What*  
*doest thou knowest not now*: So, there  
 unfearcheable *Secrets* in the *Will* of  
 We cannot searching find out,  
 the special Intention of the *Almighty*  
 in multitudes of things, that He  
 have to be done any more than we  
 can tell the *Reason* of the diverse *Pro-*  
*porties*, the curious *Diversities*, to be  
 found among the Birds, the Bea-  
 the Fishes, which are forceably and  
 elegantly insisted on, in the Book of  
*Job*, to becalm all our Inclination  
 to quarrel with the *Will* of *God*, in  
 Inscrutable Dealings with our selves.  
 But it is part of the *Homage*, which we  
 owe unto our God, for us to fall down  
 before His *Will*, with everlasting Ado-  
 ration; and with an obsequious and  
 astonished *Faith* to say, *Lord,*  
 can be *Resisting* *thy Will*. There  
 can be no *Complaining*. There  
 never



191



# 14 The High Attainment.

never can be any thing amiss in Holy will. 'Tis so, that nothing should ever be done, but what thou wilt have to be done! Faith will do so.

Thirdly; We must *Resign*, and *Refer* our selves unto the *Will* of God, as *suppress* all the *Murmurs* of our own *Will*, against the *Orders* of that *Glorious Will*! There is a manifold *Regard*, which we must have unto *Will* of God, even in the most *Afflictive Discoveries*.

First; When *Chastities* do the *Will* of God befall us, And without they never befall us! we must *Silence* our own *forward Hearts*, *confessing* the *Sovereignty* of the *Righteousness* of the *Divine Will*.

The *Right* of the *Divine Will*, in our *Conscience*, first, I must *suppress* all the *Risings* of our *Hearts* against it. It was therefore urged

I am

# The High Attainment. 15

*Lam* 3. 39. Wherefore a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sin? Is it not very sure, That in the worst calamity, we have room left for that confession, Lord, Thou hast punished far less than our Iniquities deserve! Are we *Impoverish'd* with *loss* or want of *worldly Riches*? We must humbly confess, Lord, I deserve to be banished into that poverty and misery where I should not have. Drop water, cool my Tongue. Are we *Reproached*, *Slandered*, *Contemned* in the world? We must humbly confess, Lord, I deserve to be doom'd to *Shame*, and *everlasting Contempt*.

Secondly; we must be *sifted* with *pining* and *painful Sickneß*; we must confess humbly, Lord, I deserve to be laid under the pains of Hell, and the Torments that cause *Unceasing weeping*, and *wailing*, and *gnashing of Teeth*. It is no small *stream* of *Resignation* to the *will* of God, when the *consciousness* of our *Sin*, causes us to lie down patiently under the *Indignation* of God, which

190

## 16 The High Attainment

which smites us and wounds us for our Sin. With Soul full *Confusion*, but full of *Patience*, || becomes us, under every Calamity to say, "I will bear the Indignation of the Lord, because "I have Sinned against Him. *Ps. 119* "thou wilt have thy Righteousness displayed, and proclaimed, and honoured in my Calamity, O Lord, "lay my self in the Dust before thee!

And yet, This is not all. The Sovereignty, as well as the Righteousness of the Divine Will, must be awful to us. We must Ly before the Lord, as Clay before the Potter. So did they in old *Isa. 64. 8.* Lord, we are the Clay, and thou art our Potter, and we all are the work of thy hands. *And.* Oh! we must fall down before the Foot of Sovereignty, and not only silent under the Calamity already upon us, but also argue our selves into Silence, || thousand times more should be inflicted upon us from this Thought, Surely, The Great God may do what He will with His own. Yea, let us put the Case as Tragically as ever we can, and make it far more Tragical than

## The High Attainment. 17

than ever tis like to be: Imagine all our Enjoyments taken from us, and all sorts of Miseries come instead thereof: Imagine Death to cut us down immediately, for our Useless Life; or Imagine an Useless Life, which is much worse than Death; and after all, with all possible Reverence Confess, "Lord, Thou mayest do even what thou wilt with me; I cannot, I dare not oppose thy will, O Lord, whatever Vessel thou dost make of me, or, whatever Service thou mayst put me to. Lord, Thou mayest Glorify thy self upon me, in what way soever thou wilt; "I am absolutely at the Disposal of thy glorious Will for ever.

Again, If there be any thing, that we see, the Will of God, that we should go without. Our own will should peaceably bear to go without. There is a Sacred Indifferency of will, which we should maintain towards every thing, but the Spiritual Blessings, which are a Cursed Thing to be willing to be willing to go without. It is an Article which we all have to Study; *Mat. 16. 24.* Let



## 18 The High Attainment.

a man Deny himself. Now Self-Denial to be shown, our being willing to be Denied any thing, that God will have to be Denied unto us. Oftentimes,

Hand of God, will by Difficulties and Encumbrances upon our Affairs, debar from Desirable Things: We are

kept under Hatches by unconquerable Inconveniencies. Yea, sometimes the Name of God, will put in a Bar, to our possessing of Things that might else be allowed: we might Enrich our selves with agreeable possessions, but Sin, Sin, stands in the way, we cannot get over it. Now the Will of God, is herein visible unto us. Will shall we do? Do! that Minister, the

man then Living did: who said, Phil. 1. 11. I have Learned whatsoever state I am, therewith to content. With the Resignation that Expressible, say,

Lord, be thy Will, that shall I go without such Riches, and such Honours, and such Delights, and

unsuccessful such and such Undertakings, 'Tis my will too! Lord,

I am content, I am content. I am content, I am content.

High God, Thy Holy will shall

ways

## The High Attainment. 19

ways give unto my Soul, the highest content can be given me.

And thus our purposes from time to time, are to be, with Resignation to the Will of God. It is an Admonition of the Scriptures, *Let us say, The*

*Lord Will, we* *that.* But when we say, *that* *implied,*

*That the Lord will not give us leave to do this, that, we should down without the least grumbling at the Dispensations of God.*

Yea, Finally we must Ask after such a Resignation to the Will of God as will carry with it, what is

the *Annihilation of our own will.* The *will* of man *stiffness* *strong* and a *sort of a thing, The Stiffness*

our will must be taken. Our will must become *flexible* and pliable, and easily moulded to the will of God,

when we see how our condition is thereby determined. Yea, we should come, as *as may be, to have our own will after some sort annihilated, and*

*will* *God* *up instead of our own.* It is a lovely Thing, for a man to *up* *up all his Good Things, and*

*ways*

187



Flame Love : To look upon his Estate, yea, upon his Esteem, yea, upon his most *Charming Relatives*, yea, upon his Life in self, and say, "Lord, I will sign every one of these things ; I will not hold them one moment longer than thou wilt say, that I shall keep them ! That moment when thou shalt bid me let them go, I will forego them all. But then for a man to make an Offering of his will also ; To take his will, and Lay it on the Altar, and cut the Throat, and smoke away to Heaven, in the perfumed Clouds of Resignation to his, *This*, the most Exalted Note, the most Consummate Stroke of our Piety.

Indeed, We must use means, to escape, and to stave off, such things as may Rationally be esteemed *Mischiefs*, and *Breaches* upon, the good Condition wherein God hath placed us. But, When after our Means, and Prayers, and Hopes, we see the will of God striking down, to such a Condition ; 'Tis now a Time to say, Lord, Thy will be done. While David had any prospect of prolonging the Life of his Child.

Child ; I will *Pray*, and *Fast*, and *Weep*, and wait for it : But when he sees the Will of God, that the Life of the Child should be prolonged, Lo, it becomes his own will too : 2 Sam. 12. 20. Then David arose from the Earib, and Washed, and Anointed, and Changed his Apparel, and came to the House of the Lord, and Worshipped : Then he came to his own House, and when he required, they set Bread before him, and he did Eat. This, This will be the Carriage of one, who *man after the Heart of God* !

The Thing at stake, This For a man to have no longer any of his own, that shall show it self inclined any way but what the Will of God shall direct ; For a man to Abdicate his own will, Extinguish his own will, take up with the Will of God instead of his own : For a man to have all the Storms of his Heart under every Vexation, sweetly asswaged and allayed, in the Will of God, giving Law, and giving Awe, in his will. This, This is it. But die Strain now upon *How to come at it ?*



186

## The High Attainment.

II. How shall such a Glorious Disposition  
obtained in a Christian?

Let such Things as these be done.

I. The Rebellion of our will, against  
the Will of God, must be mortified and  
Crucified, being brought unto  
Cross by our Lord JESUS CHRIST.  
Our Original sin is much Seated in  
our Will, as in any Faculty of our Soul.  
We are Departed from God. Our De-  
parture from God very much lies in  
our Shaking off the Authority of His  
Will. Our first Rebellion against God,  
was in the withdraw of our will from  
Gods, and then our Setting up our will  
instead of Gods. Our will is now fixed  
in this cursed Rebellion. As it is said,  
Rom. 8. The carnal mind is in enmity  
against God; for it is subject unto  
the Law of God, neither indeed can be. So it  
may be said; "Such is our Enmity  
against God, that we will not subject un-  
to the Will of God, neither indeed  
can it be, without special Influences  
of Grace upon it, Renewing and Re-  
sto-

## The High Attainment.

Restoring, and Rectifying of it. Our  
will is now contrary to the Will of God.  
The Will of God is very precious to  
our will. We affect, that our will should  
stand rather than God's; in opposition un-  
to God's; in Superiority above God's.  
This Rebellion of our will must be slain,  
that so we may come at a due Resigna-  
tion to the Will of God. And what  
the way to slay it. We read, Gal. 5.  
The flesh, the affections and lusts. A  
Crucified will, is a Resigned Will.  
In that one word, you have an hint  
how to come to it. Oh! Lift up your  
Eyes to a Crucified Christ, purchasing  
for you that Favour of God, a Crucifi-  
ed Will. Behold the Lord JESUS  
CHRIST, as Dying on the Cross.  
Believe, that the Death of our Lord  
JESUS CHRIST on the Cross, was to  
purchase the Liberty of our Souls, and the  
Obedience of our Sins, and of our Sinful will.  
Oh we are to plead with the God of  
Grace; "O my God, my God.  
The Rebellion of my will against  
thine, renders me unspeakably mile-  
rable. Oh wretched man that I

185

## 24 The High Attainment.

am, who shall deliver me from this horrid misery! Truly, my Lord Jesus Christ hath shed His own precious Blood, that He might purchase my Deliverance. And now I plead that Blood with thee; For the sake of that Blood, Oh! Let me be saved from the Curse of such will; does now carry me away from God, and rise up in cursed Rebellion against Him. Christians, All the fine Documents of *Seneca*, or *Epictetus*, or the *Modern Divinity* which to the scandal of Christianity takes its measures from them, will never bring our will unto pious Resignation. We must go this way to work; This is the way of the Gospel; 'Tis the Cross of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, that must be improved, for the Help of all that is amiss in our Souls. Throw that Cross away, and our success will be small; That; Thou shalt find many Medicines, and shalt not be cured.

II. Let there be Complaints about the Disorders of our will, Exhibited unto the Lord JESUS CHRIST, and that will procure His Efficacious Influence.

## The High Attainment. 25

of the Holy Spirit, in the curing of the Disorders. We find ordered our Lord Luk. 19. 27. *Those mine enemies, which would not that I should Rejoice over them, bring hither, and I will before them.* Surely our will continually Thwarting God, is one of those Enemies; Oh! bring hither unto the Lord JESUS CHRIST, and urge, "Lord, I would fain have thee to Reign over me; but here is one of thy Enemies ["tis my wicked will!"] that I cannot slay before thee, but I lay before thee to do it! Oh, do it, I pray thee! I pray thee! Our Lord JESUS CHRIST, is our King, as well as our Priest, and our Prophet. It is the Office of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, as He is our King, to reduce our Souls into right posture, and our wills into such a Resignation to His will as is demanded of us; as we read, Cor. 10. 5. *cast down every high thing, that Exalts itself against the knowledge of God; So, To bring down that high will which Exalts itself against the will of God.* As long as we are in the Flesh, we shall have

184



have our will ever now and then rising up against the Will of God; we cannot please God, nor shall we be pleased, with what is pleasing to God. The most Humble man, will find the pride of his will, to be the pride of Life, and mourn under proud will, to the End of his Life. But now, Let us go to our Lord JESUS CHRIST, as the Physician of our Souls, and make known and mean our Malady unto Him, and say, "Lord, Thou knowest the plague of my Heart; I would fain have my will Resign'd perpetually and perfectly Resign'd unto the will of God. But my Heart is desperately wicked! It will not! It will not! Oh! Let thy Holy Spirit now take my Heart into His Hand, and rebuke, and remove the horrible Distempers of my will, and make it most conformable to the will of God in all things, to the Will of God, I beseech thee, I entreat thee!"

III. Frequently Resign thy will unto God. A man, and Renew the Resignation, with a very solemn Action. There is an

an Action. Retired Christianity to be done, which is being often done, every time we do it, we shall gain more and more ground upon our will, and at length gain the point of a most Resigned Will.

I will describe the Action, and you will give me your Attention.

Retire before the Lord; and with Prayer, yea, with Fasting, as well as Prayer, after agreeable preparations, bring the matter, in some such Issue as This.

"O most Glorious Lord GOD! Thou hast offered Thy self unto thy Creatures, and Allowed them, yea, Invited them, yea, Commanded them, to Take Thee for Their God. I do it in thy Help, O my God, I do it; Thou shalt be my God; The Glorifying of Thee, shall be my Last End; The Fruition of Thee, shall be my Best Good; yea, and Thy will I will chuse to my will for ever. My own will, I find is, O Lord, a foolish, wicked, an hurtful will; and therefore I vehemently Renounce and Reject it; I heartily Resign it, and I





## 28 The High Attainment.

gain, Lord, Let *thy will be my will!* I have my Concernments, about which my mind Exercised; many, mighty, weighty Concernments; Concernments relating both to this world, and the world to come. *O my God, Thou art a God of Infinite Power, and Wisdom, and Goodness, and thro' my Lord Jesus Christ, the sweet Reconciler of God and man, thou art infinitely merciful unto Sinners, who draw near unto thee. And now, unto thy Infinite Wisdom, and Goodness, and Mercy, I commit all my Concernments, One and all. I cast all my Cares, I roll all my Loads, upon my God; I leave all my Concernments, unto His managements; and this at His gracious Invitation to do. And now, I am Happy, I am inconceivably Happy; The Lord, yea, the Lord God Almighty, will perform all things for me; and all things now shall be well performed. Whatever now befalls me, will be a Fruit of the Great JEHOVAHS Wisdom, and Goodness, and Mercy. Tho' I be never so really cross to my Desire, and seemingly*

## The High Attainment. 29

cross to my *Welfare*, yet I will Endeavour now to take a sweet contentment in all, as the *Will* of Infinite Wisdom, and Goodness, and Mercy - and the *will* of an Heavenly Father that has undertaken the Happy Conduct of all my Affairs. Oh! my *will*, Oh! my *Soul!* Never after this be disturbed about *Future Events*; always close with, and like of the *Present Dealings* of the Lord.

Such an Action often Repeated, will doubtless leave a blessed Impression upon our *will*, and shape it by degrees into a most Glorious *Resignation*.

IV. Let us make sure, that the Great God be our *Friend*, and then, I wonder what Objection our *will* can make against the *will* of God. It was said Mat. 10. 29. *A Sparrow shall not fall to the Ground, without your Father.* Aye, it be a Father who directs all that comes to pass, who can be so undutiful as to oppose his Direction. A Child, that is well satisfied in the prudence and kindness of his Father, how satisfiedly may he Resign himself to the *will* of his Father.

192

## The High Attainment.

Father? O man, thy God is thy Father, thou art very sure not only of Prudence, but also of Kindness in thy Father. With what Resignation mayst thou now say, "Oh my Father will never hurt me! I may safely venture my self with such a Father! O my Father, my Father, I Resign my self to thy Will, in the fullest confidence, that thou fully knowest what will be best for me, & thou art fully inclined always to do me Good. The Truth is, until we come to the consideration of God, as our Father, we shall never come to the true stroke of Resignation to the Will of God. But how shall this be brought about? How, but by giving up thy self unto the Son of God, and being espoused and Married unto the Lord-Redeemer. The Son of God, seeks thy consent, O Immortal Soul, to become His, and to become willing that He should Save thee, and Rule and Govern thee. His Good Spirit render thee Faithful unto God. Consent, Oh! Consent, may that Good Spirit effectually dispose thee to Consent! From that moment, the Lord Jesus Christ saies unto

## The High Attainment.

unto thee, "I am thine, and thou art mine, and my Father is thy Father, and He will surely Bless thee; there shall be the Blessed Love of a Father, in all that He will do concerning thee.

But shall we go another, [ And yet not Another! ] way to work? That you may come on the better Resignation to the will of God, you desire to get a clear Assurance, that God will indeed your Father. Behold, how to abide in His work, and cut it short by Righteousness! Resignation to the will of God, the ready way to get that Assurance. We may be Assured, None but a Child of God can really Resign himself unto the will of God. Yea, The Blessed Spirit frequently makes this the Reward of Resignation. When we are prostrate in the Dust before the Lord, most entirely Resigning our selves unto His Will, and Consenting that He should even what He will with us, the Spirit of Glory often will Reward us, coming down upon us with Sealing Grace, and telling us, "O Broken-hearted B. flower, The God unto whom thou do Resign thy

181



## The High Attainment.

Self, thy very Father ; And as a Father pitties his Children, so the Lord pitties thee : Thy Everlasting Father has Loved thee with an Everlasting Love ; His Goodness and Mercy will follow thee all thy Dayes ; All His paths towards thee, will be Mercy and Truth.

We have had Illustrious Patterns of Resignation to the will of God ; the Contemplation of those Patterns, may assist our Imitation of them. There have been a Cloud of Witnesses, animate us, unto the Patient Resignation, which is not the least thing in the Race of Christianity. Take, my Brethren, Prophets, an Example of Resignation, and Patience.

ABRAHAM. Faithful Abraham. Oh, Children — Abraham, Look upon your Father, Leaving his pleasant Country and cleaving to the Conduct of Heaven in paths full of Darkness, and Remarkably Tried — than Ten Times over, but Remarkable for his Resignation under all his Trials. Look upon him as one *Call'd unto the Foot of God, and last giving up his <sup>self</sup> at the Call of God,* and

## The High Attainment.

& making a Sacrifice of his *only Son* unto the Will of the Lord. With Resignation, at which all Ages are astonished, and weep at the very picture of Think, *forfeit my Name, not follow the steps of such Resignation !*

JOB. *Vir ante Evangelia Evangelicus*, A man of a Gospel Disposition before the Gospel Dispensation. A Spectacle — Angels he was ! well may he be a Spectacle to Christians. Chrysostom speaking of Jobs Dunghil, justly saith, It was *αὐτοῦ θρόνον βασιλικὸν σκηνώσαντα*, More Stately than any Royal Throne. Twas his Resignation there, that rendred it so ! Look upon that Saint of God, visited with one Messenger after another, informing him, that the Will of God had Stript him of all that he had in the world ; and hear the rare Language of his Resignation ; The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away ; Blessed be the Name of the Lord. Look upon that Saint of God, delivered over by the will of God, even into the Hand of Satan, for Satan to Smite him with Egyptian Uleers without, and Internal Terrors within, and again hear the rare Language of his Resignation ; Shall

088



## The High Attainment.

we receive Good at the Hand of God, and shall we receive Evil? Truly, this Job Sinned not; But we shall, if do not like him.

DAVID. *man after Gods own Heart, who fulfilled all His Wills.*

Look upon that princely Person, behaving himself as *Weaned Child*, and forbearing to push himself into the Character of a *Mighty Prince*, which belonged unto him. Look upon him, the most Reproached and Reviled men, and yet willing to suffer any Calumnies of his Revilers, *Because the Lord had bidden them.* Look upon him, as meeting with direful Troubles *Breaches in his Family*; but when most *all Troubled and Broken, Still Dumb,* opening his mouth, because, *Lord, thou*

If you never heard the *Melody* (Heaven counts so!) of *Resignation*, you shall hear it; *Sam. 15. 26. If the Lord say, I have Delight in thee, Behold, here I am, I will give myself unto Him.* It seemeth Good unto Him.

methinks, *PAUL*, may come to the *Resigning Believers*, that may be to us, *Be followers of me!* What

was

## The High Attainment. 35

was *but Exemplary Resignation* that would say, *Lord, what wilt thou have me to do!* What was it but *Resignation*, that could say, *The world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world!* What was it but *Resignation*, that could say, *None of these things trouble me, nor count my Life dear unto my self, that I might finish my course with joy!* Can any thing be more expressive of *Resignation* than those golden passages? *Phil. 11, 12. have Learnt, in whatsoever state I am, to be therewith content: I know both how to be abased, and know how to abound: Every where, and in all things I am instructed, both to be full, and to be hungry, both to abound, and to suffer need. I am well added, I can do all things, through Christ who Strengthens me.* Without Strength from Christ, there could be no doing of such things as these.

That we may have *Christ Strengthening* us. Let us look on His Example, as well as look for His Assistance. The Image of God is Renewed in us very much by our Looking on the *Second Adam*, who is the *Grand Saviour* of it; And a will *Resigned unto the Will of God*, is a most

Not



## The High Attainment.

Noble Stroke of His Image upon us.  
Come then; Behold, O People  
God, Behold the man JESUS, *Resigning*  
Himself to the Will of God, as no  
meer man in the world ever did  
could: Behold, the *Blessed One Resigning*  
Himself to be made a Curse. Behold,  
the Heir of all things, *Resigning* Himself  
to be as poor as to have nothing. Behold  
the King of Heaven, *Resigning* Himself  
to be mocked with a Crown of Thorns.  
Behold, the Judge of the World, *Resigning*  
Himself to be treated as a Criminal,  
at the Bar of Wretches that were  
indeed so! Behold, the Lord of Angels  
*Resigning* Himself to be Tempted and  
Vexed of Devils! He saw the Will  
of God calling for it. Behold, the Son  
of God, at length arrested with all the  
Terrors of Death and Hell, and with  
Weeping, Sweating, Bloody Agonies  
Soul, Crying from the Dust unto His  
Father, that He might be delivered  
from these Terrors; but coming to that  
*Resignation*, Luk. 22. 42. Father, if thou  
wilt, Remove this Cup from me, Never-  
theless, Not my will, but thine be done!  
Incomparable *Resignation*. Were you  
not

## The High Attainment.

not astonished at it O ye Angels of  
Heaven, when you saw a Sight so full  
of Heavenly Beauty? Let it Charm  
you, O ye Disciples of the *Resigning*  
JESUS among the Children of men,  
Let it move you, and melt you and  
charm you, into Endeavours of a beau-  
tiful Imitation.

VI. Let the Consequences on both hands,  
be well considered.

On the one Hand, If we Refuse to  
*Resign* to God, what is the English of  
it but that we will Contend with God?  
But, Oh! Do not so! Are we stronger  
than GOD? or, Did ever any barden him-  
self against God that prospered? A Contem-  
tion between the Great GOD, and a  
poor Worm, is a very unequal Contem-  
tion. But such folly and madness is  
prosecuted, where we lay aside Con-  
tinentment with the Condition, which the  
will of God shall Carve out unto us. It  
Thunders dreadfully, when the Almighty  
GOD threatens; Lev. 26. 21. I will  
walk contrary unto me, then will  
I walk contrary unto you. Our Walk





### 38 The High Attainment.

contrary to God, as long as our will is contrary to the will of God. If we are not willing that God should have *His* will, how can we expect that God should be willing we should have *ours*. Whatever we will not *Resign*, we *Forfeit*. If we do not Enjoy every thing in God and in God; and with reference to the will of God; the Holiness of God bespeaks His not allowing that thing unto us. Our *Holding* what we have too fast, and our lothness to leave it unto the will of God; whether we shall have it or no; is the main cause, why God, by *Disfranchising* upon us, does Deprive us, Bereave us of our Enjoyments. *Whithin Controversy*, THIS is the great Controversy that God has with a miserable World; Who's *WILL* shall stand, *His* or *ours*? Until we yield our selves unto the Lord, with a *Resignation* of our will to *His*, we may look for it that He will go on managing His *Controversy* with us, in Fiery Rebukes, and break us to pieces with one Disaster after another, yea, and sore break us in the place of *Dragons*, at the last.

### The High Attainment. 39

On the other Hand; *Resign* unto God, and never fear, God will most certainly *Smile*, and *Shine* upon us. If *Gods Will* be *ours*, we are sure all ways to have *our will*: O unmatched Felicity! But not unreachable! Yea, When we, not yet knowing the *Will* of God, propound *ours*, with a due *Resignation* to *His*, tis a most Hopeful Symptom, that *ours* will prove *His*. It is an admirable Hint; Psal. 131. Surely, I have behaved and quieted myself, as a Child that is weaned of his mother, my Soul is even as a weaned Child. And what follows? Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth. When a man is doing the part of an Israel, Wrestling with God for His mercies, let him come to the Frame of a weaned Child, and say, Lord, after all, it is thy will that I should not have these mercies, not thy will but thy will is done; only help me, to Like thy will, and chuse





## The High Attainment.

*thy will, who sweetly satisfied in the will.* Truly, FROM HENCE-FORTH a man may *Hope*, that God has very merciful Things to do for him; Let such a man *Hope*, and *Quietly wait for the Salvation of God.* Shall I say it unto you? To be continually closing with the will of God in *All things*, and yet bewailing & bemoaning those *Ill things*, which the will of God has commanded us to be Grieved; Oh! 'Tis to *Dwell in God.* Yea, the Eternal GOD, has a Glorious *Temple* in the Soul, that is always thus *Resigning* unto Him; He dwells in that Soul, as in a Glorious *Temple*, and He fills it with Graces and Comforts and Celestial and unspeakable Communications of His Goodness. The *Peace of God* will rule in that Soul, which makes the *Will of God*, the Rule of all its Appetites. *Resignation*, 'tis as *Austin* well call'd, *The Sabbath of the Soul.* Nor can it

## The High Attainment. 41

be any way more Significantly, and more Acceptably to *Glorify God.* We do more *Glorify God*,

*Resignation* to His Will, especially when much Adversity is by that *will* distressing us, than we do by all our *Prayers*, and all our *Alms*, and our *Devotionary Exercises.* *Glorify God* this way upon Earth, O my Hearers, and it will be an infallible Token upon us, that God will one Day bring us to all the *Glory of Heaven.* Yea, Let me tell you; To Do what is it but *Heaven Antedated*; A Glorious Anticipation of *Heaven*! In *Heaven*, we read, *God shall be All in All.* When we have no will of our own, but the *Will of God* becomes *All* unto us. Oh! 'Tis a Lively Essay towards that State, wherein *God shall be our All.* It is the ancient Saying, *Cum voluntas propria, et non ardebit Gehenna*; Were it possible for a man to go

176

42 The High Attainment.  
 down into the *Fire*, *Hell*, with  
*Will* *Resign* a unto the *Will* of *God*;  
 that *Fire* would not burn upon him;  
 he would not carry thither combus-  
 tible matter for that *Fire* to burn  
 upon; tho' he should go to *Hell*,  
 he would carry *Heaven* with him  
 thither. Christian, so far as thou  
 dost *Resign* thy self to the *Will* of  
*God*, so far dost thou ascend into  
*Heaven*. God never helps thee to  
 take *His Will* for *Thine* but in and  
 by that very Thing which takes thee  
 into *Heaven*,

I think I can proceed no fur-  
 ther.

PRINTS

Martha Golden  
 Her Book 1763

BY SIMON  
 Fitch Boston T. M.

Good connections  
 am-bret  
 store, No. 73, corn  
 which he will  
 table sets  
 adorned to his  
 A. MONGE

EARTH  
 HAS REACHED BY

York, November  
 until his intended number is completed.  
 may be known by applying at the Ac-  
 don Education according to its own plan  
 Bell will thoughtfully consider the pub-  
 his talk of Talism.  
 habit, named forward by sixteen  
 able tell  
 als of moral and literary con-  
 of which  
 as the most illustrious and  
 Dublin, the scene and subject of  
 a novel  
 which his client is to be a  
 of those intended to Mr. Bell  
 of the use of his pupils, and with friends,  
 of which and different, medical machines,  
 of Liberty, with others made in the  
 of the present - Mr. Bell

125

ISAAC M. GONZALEZ  
 BROKER No. 97, Maiden Lane  
 TRANSAC every broker in  
 Stocks of the United States—also Land, and  
 and Merchandise. Any Business connected  
 with the above will be executed with promptness  
 and care.

PETERS,  
 110 N. 2nd St. Phila.  
 N. WARE  
 are a number of  
 country, etc.—also, a  
 and fine Ed. W. etc.  
 to for Cash, at the  
 Maiden Lane.

121

THEOLOGY LIBRARY  
CLAREMONT, CALIF.

441644

32-48708











BV  
4647  
R4  
M3  
1703a

Mather, Cotton, 1663-1728.

The High Attainment. A Brief Discourse Concerning Resignation to the Will of God; A Glorious Duty incumbent on every Christian, And Containing in it, the very Spirit, and Comfort, and Glory of Chirstianity ... Boston, Printed by B. Green, & J. Allen, for Nicholas Boone, 1703. 42p. 14cm.

Published anonymously.

Photocopy (negative) of the original in the Henry E. Huntington Library. 42p. on [24]/. 15 x 20cm.

1. Resignation. 2.

Ged=Hill. I. Title.

441644

CCSC/mmh

